

HOUSE RESOLUTION 61  
By Langster

A RESOLUTION designating Wednesday, April 23, 1997 as  
"Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Day on Capitol  
Hill".

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to the members of those exemplary organizations who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., is the oldest Greek-letter organization established in America by Black college women.

WHEREAS, The record of Alpha Kappa Alpha's origin, growth and development, activities, evolving goals and accomplishments is more than an interesting chronicle of a colorful bit of college-based Americana. It is, rather, a significant and inspiring reflection of the development of a minority group in a changing culture; and

WHEREAS, In 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority became America's first Greek-letter organization established by and for Black women. The sorority's roots date back to Howard University, Washington, D.C., where the idea for formation was conceived by Ethel Hedgeman Lyle of St. Louis, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Miss Lyle viewed the Sorority as an instrument for enriching the social and intellectual aspects of college life by providing mental stimulation through interaction with friends and associates; and

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WHEREAS, Through the years, however, Alpha Kappa Alpha's functioning has become more complex. After the sorority's incorporation as a perpetual body in 1913, Alpha Kappa Alpha gradually branched out and became the channel through which selected college-trained women improved the social and economic conditions in their city, state, nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, Today, that tradition has continued--internationally, nationally and locally. Alpha Kappa Alpha cultivates and encourages high scholastic and ethical standards; promotes unity and friendship among college women; alleviates problems concerning girls and women; maintains a progressive interest in college life; and serves all mankind through a nucleus of more than 140,000 women in over 860 chapters; and

WHEREAS, It is highly appropriate that this General Assembly should honor the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and their endeavors to be an instrument for enriching the social and intellectual aspects of college life in our nation, and our great state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby designate Wednesday, April 23, 1997, as "Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Day on Capitol Hill", in grateful recognition of the meritorious efforts and achievements of this organization, and pledge our continued support for the cultivation and encouragement of high scholastic and ethical standards among college women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, This General Assembly welcomes Vanessa Rogers Long, Regional Director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., to the great state of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.